

## LOC Questions and Clarifications Memorandum

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**To:** Solicited Vendors for Letter of Configuration (LOC) Number 43059, dated March 28, 2017 for the Mississippi State Veterans Affairs Board (MSVAB)

**From:** Craig P. Orgeron, Ph.D.

**Date:** April 13, 2017

**Subject:** Responses to Questions Submitted and Clarifications to Specifications

**Contact Name:** Jordan Barber

**Contact Phone Number:** 601-432-8005

**Contact E-mail Address:** [jordan.barber@its.ms.gov](mailto:jordan.barber@its.ms.gov)

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The following questions were submitted to ITS and are being presented as they were submitted, except to remove any reference to a specific vendor. This information should assist you in formulating your response.

**Question 1:** My partner and I are both veterans and we are very interested in bidding on this opportunity. I am emailing you for clarification concerning the Maintenance/Support requirements that disqualify our organization.

5.14 Vendor must be a Cisco Gold Partner, and must provide proof of such partnership. (we are a Cisco Premier Partner)

5.15 Vendor must have a Cisco Certified Engineer(s) with Cisco Certified Internetwork Expert certification in routing, switching, and security on staff. Vendor must provide proof of such certification. (we have a CCNP)

5.16 Vendor must be a Microsoft Gold Partner, and must provide proof of such partnership. (we are a Microsoft Silver Partner)

The items above target a very select group of IT providers while excluding 95% of potential responders. I am emailing you to find out if the requirement is iron clad or if the State is willing to waive the requirement? I also wanted to point out that the VA (Federal) has a program that prioritizes contracting with veteran owned companies called Vet's First which was mandated by "Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006". I know the State and the Federal government are separate but the guidance provided in the States IT Procurement handbook specifies Federal law precedence if federal money is used to fund the project. I don't know if this is the case but we are interested in bidding the opportunity and we would be a great fit. Our HIPAA Centric and security aware helpdesk is second to none.

**Response: MSVAB requires that the awarded Vendor possess the level of partnerships and certification as stated in the LOC.**

LOC responses are due Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. (Central Time).

If you have any questions concerning the information above or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Jordan Barber at 601-432-8005 or via email at [jordan.barber@its.ms.gov](mailto:jordan.barber@its.ms.gov).

cc: ITS Project File Number 43059